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U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
Washington, DC 20515

November 14, 2019

The Honorable John Yarmuth
Chairman, House Committee on the Budget
204 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I write to request a hearing in the House Budget Committee on an urgent matter: the harmful impacts of continuing resolutions (CRs) on the United States military.

With myriad threats to our national security around the globe, I sincerely hope a full-year defense appropriations bill can be enacted as soon as possible. Noted budget and defense policy experts agree that CRs have significant harmful effects on our national security. These include major program delays and billions of dollars in wasteful spending – both of which hinder our military readiness to meet today's challenges, and the ability to develop new capabilities to meet tomorrow's emerging threats.¹ Last week, the Pentagon asked Congress to prioritize a year-long defense spending bill saying, "The DOD needs sufficient, predictable, and timely funding. Under a CR, the Department cannot continue the modernization progress made under the previous budget deal... The six-week CR has been problematic; another long-term CR will be more so."²

In addition, the global security environment has become more dangerous and less stable as the U.S. faces increasingly complex and evolving threats around the world. Failing to provide reliable funding for our military is unacceptable.

Respectfully, I request that the House Budget Committee hold a hearing as soon as possible on the harmful and negative impacts of continuing resolutions on the U.S. military. It is imperative that the Committee hear directly from the Department of Defense and other entities as appropriate, to fully understand the consequences associated with failing to complete our constitutional obligations.

I look forward to working with you on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Steve Womack
Ranking Member

¹Damage to America's Military Under A Full-Year Continuing Resolution, House Committee on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Budget, Nov 4, 2019, <https://republicans-armedservices.house.gov/sites/republicans.armedservices.house.gov/files/Impacts%20of%20a%20Full%20Year%20CR.pdf>

²DOD and Joint Staff On-Camera Press Briefing at 11:00a.m., Thursday, Nov 7, 2019, <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Advisories/Article/2010920/dod-and-joint-staff-on-camera-press-briefing-at-1100-am-thursday-nov-7/>